

A Seasonable and Christian Caution

Against the Provoking Sin of **PRIDE** and other manifest **Evils**, and of the **JUDGEMENTS** threatened because thereof,

Compassionately tendered to the Inhabitants of LONDON, and elsewhere Concerned, as a Warning to

REPENTANCE.



I. **M**Y Soul with many others having been often bowed down under a deep sense and burthen of the Impenitence, hardness of Heart, Unsensibleness, *Pride* and *Presumption* abounding in this City of London and Nation of England; and being sensible the great God is thereby highly offended, and provoked to Anger, and that even the Nation is in great Danger, deeply to suffer by the Sins of the People, and the great abuse of the Mercies of God: I Considered what Method I might use to persuade this People (professing Christianity and the Holy Scriptures to be their Rule of Life, &c.) to be ashamed of this Reigning Sin of *Pride*, whereupon in the Sence of the Love of God, and in great compassion to this City and Nation, I said in my Heart (as the Matter truly opened) Let us try them with the Holy Scripture Testimonies, and let none be angry nor offended thereat, but take warning and speedily Repent; For if they will not hear Moses and the Prophets, nor regard the Commands or Testimonies of Christ Jesus, or his Holy Apostles (when duly applied) Neither will they hear if one should rise from the Dead to warn them.

Pray Consider.

1. *It is the wicked that is so proud that he seeketh not after God.* Psal. 10. 4. And what then will be the Judgement of such? *The Lord will Cut off them that are turned back from him, and those that have not sought the Lord nor enquired after him.* Zeph. 1. 4, 5, 6.

2. Who is King over the Children of *Pride*, but the *Wicked one*, the Devil, the *Old Crooked Serpent*, (Figuratively call'd *Leviathan*, Job 41. 25. Isa. 27. 1.) to be sure the Children of *Pride* are none of God's Children, nor Christ's Subjects or Followers, but averse to his Example of *Humility* and *Self-denial*.

3. *The high look of man shall be humbled, and the loftiness of men shall be abased, for the day of the Lord of Hosts is upon all the Proud and vaughty, and upon all that is exalted, and it shall be made low:* Isa. 2. 11. 12.

4. *For behold the day cometh that shall burn as an Oven, and all the Proud, yea all that do wickedly shall be as Stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up saith the Lord of Hosts.* Mal. 4. 1.

5. *When *Pride* cometh then cometh shame, but with the lowly is *Wisdom*.* Prov. 11. 2.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an high mind before the fall. Pro. 16. 18.

*The Lord will destroy the house of the *Proud man*, Pro. 15. 25. The *Pride* of a man shall bring him *Low*, but the *humble* in *Spirit* shall enjoy *Glory*, Pro. 29. 23.*

6. *The Lord of Hosts hath decreed this to stain the *Pride* of all *Glory*, and to bring to contempt, all them that be Glorious in the Earth.* Isa. 23. 9.

*W*o to the *Crown* of *Pride*, to the *Drunkards* of *Ephraim*, for his glorious *Beauty* shall be a *fading Flower*, which is upon the *heads* of the *Valley* of them that be *fat*, and are overcome with *Wine*. Isa. 28. 1. *They shall be trodden under foot even the *Crown* of the *Pride* of the *Drunkards* of *Ephraim*.* ver. 3.

Now pray observe what an apparent Embleme and Mark of the *Crown* of *Pride* is now your *Womens* lofty *Head-Tire*, their strange *Towering* and *Extravagant Dresses* upon their *Heads*, and how *Immodest* vain and *Antick*, thereby many even overtopping the *Men*? And what a *doting*, *vain* and *foolish Humour* 'tis in any *men* to delight to see their *Wives* or *Children* go in such *vain*, *Immodest* and *Indecent Dresses*, and what ill Examples are even many of the *Priests* and *Ministers* *Wives* and *Children* therein? And what a sad *Reproach* and *Scandal* to *Religion* and the *Christian Profession* to see *Assemblies* for *Religious Worship*, so much filled with *abominable Pride* in *Attire*, as with those high *Towering Dresses*, *Extravagant* and *Excessive Wigs*, more for *Pride* of *Ornament* than *Service* or *Necessity*. And what a *foolish* and *Effeminate Humour* it is in any to affect such *Extravagancy* and *Excess* in *Apparel* and *vain Ornaments*; and how greatly unbecoming *Religious Assemblies*, pretending *Worship*, *Fasting*, *Prayer*, *Humiliation*, and *Repentance*.

And for any to excuse their *Pride* and *Immodesty* in *Apparel*, either by pretending that *Pride* is not in the *Apparel*, but in the *Heart*, or that they may wear their *Proud* & *Vain Garbs* (their *Immodest* *Lofty* and *Towering Dresses*) and yet not be *Proud* in *Heart*: Herein they wrong their own *Consciences*, *Flatter* and *deceive* themselves in their *Pride* and *Folly*; let them but seriously look into, impartially search and *Examine* their own *Hearts* and *Consciences* with the *Light of Christ* therein, and they'll easily see how frequently their *Minds*, *Affections*, and *Hearts* have been *busied* and *taken up* to *Imitate* and *get into* the *Vain Fashion*, *Modes* and *Habits* of *Courts* and *Gentry*, *Invented* in *France* and *other Places*. And what a *shame* and *disgrace* it is for *English Protestants* so much to affect the *French Vain* and *Immodest Fashions* and *Habits*, or to be such *Slaves* to the *Pride* of *France*, when they would be *Loath* to be *Slaves* to their *Power*: Oh! take heed how you provoke the great God by your *Pride* and *Excess*, and do not *Flatter* your selves. The root of all your *Pride* in *Habit* is in your *Hearts*; and from *Within*, *Even out of the Heart Proceed evil thoughts, Adulteries, Fornications, Murders, Thefts, Covetousness, Wickedness, Dccit, Uncleanness, a Wicked Eye, Backbiting, *Pride* and *Foolishness**, Mark. 7. 20, 21, 22, 23. Therefore 'tis a *false Excuse* and *contrary* to *Christ's Doctrine* for any to say, that *Pride* or *Foolishness* is not in their *Hearts*, when 'tis apparent and notorious in their *Habits* and *foolish Attire*.

II. **P**ride in Root and Branch, in Heart and Habit with its *Immodesty*, *Vanity* and *Foolishness* in *Apparel*, and the evil *Example* thereof, is altogether and expressly forbidden of God and his Christ, and directly contrary to the *Holy Scriptures*.

1st. How can it consist either with our *Christian Profession* or *Modesty*, for any professed Christians to imitate *Jezebel* who *Painted her Face, and Tired her Head*? 2 Kings 9. 30. or to *Resemble the strange Woman in Harlots Attire*? Prov. 7. 10. a remarkable *Character*, and *distinct* from that of *Modest Women fearing God*.

2d. That of *Isaiah* 3. Chap. Is very remarkable how highly God was displeased with the *Haughtiness* and *Pride* of the *Daughter of Zion*, among his People *Israel* of old, with their *Vanity* and *Pride* in *Apparel* &c. that he both *Threatned*, and brought *severe Judgements* upon them, to their great *debasement*, *contempt* and *distress*; in so much that the Lord said unto *Jerusalem*, *Thy men shall fall by the Sword, and thy strength in the Battle*. Ver. 8. 25.

Then shall her Gates mourn and Lament; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground. ver. 26. Their *Pride* and *Rebellion* was the cause of such their *Calamity* and *Debasement*: *Because the Daughters of Zion are Haughty, &c.* ver. 16. And when the Prophet foretold God's *Judgement* upon *Jerusalem*, and how he would *distress Aiel*, and what *heaviness* and *sorrow* should be: He also said, *Thou shalt be brought down, &c. Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of Hosts with Thunder and with Earth-Quakes, &c.* Isa. 29. Oh why are such *Ominous Signes*, and such *eminent Threatning Visits* from the *Lord of Hosts*, (even in our days) no more taken notice of, considered or laid to *Heart* by many?

3d. *Tremble, O Earth (Oh Inhabitants of the Earth) at the presence of the Lord God: Fear and tremble Oh ! all Proud flesh at the presence of the God of Jacob; Oh be abased and humbled before the Great and Terrible God, cast off thy costly Ornaments, and Proud Attire, and sit down in the Dust; Mourn and Lament, and Bewail thy self, and Repent as in Dust and Ashes, because of thy abominable *Pride*; many and great Provocations against the *Lord of Hosts*, whose terrible day approacheth. When the Lord threatened to Cut off *Idolaters* and *backsliders* that turned back from the Lord, and those that have not sought the Lord nor enquired after him.* Zeph. 1. 4, 5, 6. He also Threatned, saying, *And it shall be in the day of the Lord's Sacrifice, that I will visit the Princes and the Kings Children, and all such as are Cloathed with strange Apparel*, Zeph. 1. 8. And was there ever any *Age* or *Nation* that exceeded this of Our's in *Strangeness* and *folly* in *Apparel*?

4th. And when *Jerusalem* and the *Daughter of Zion* were *Warned* of their *Calamities*, *Mifery* and *Destruction*, because of their *Pride*, *Wickedness* and *Abominations*, it was declared unto them. *And when thou shalt be destroyed what wilt thou do? Though thou Cloashest thy self with Scarlet, tho' thou deckest thee with Ornaments of Gold, tho' thou Paintest thy Face with Colours, yet shalt thou Trim thy self in vain, &c.* Jer. 4. 30.

5th. And now seriously consider the *Holy Apostles* *Exhortation* and *Counsel* in this *Cafe*. 1 Tim. 2. 9, 10. *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest Apparel, with shame-facedness and Sobriety, not with braided Hair, or Gold or Pearls, or costly Array, But which Beconmeth Women Professing Godliness with good Works.* The like also, in 1 Pet. 3. 3, 4, 5. *Whose Adorning let it not be that outward adorning of Plaing the Hair, wearing of Gold, or putting on of Apparel, But let it be the hidden man of the Heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the Ornament of a meek and quiet Spirit, which is in the sight of God of great Price.* For after this manner in the old *Time*, the *holy Women also who trusted in God, adored themselves, being in subjection unto their own Husbands.* They did not Adorne themselves with high Heads and *Towering Dresses*, nor with Spotted or Painted Faces, nor with *Foolish* or *Immodest Attire*; which things among profest Christians are no small *Scandal* and *Reproach* to *Religion* and *Christianity*, but against the *Honour* and *Interest* thereof, and to the great *dishonour* of God, and his dear Son *Jesus Christ*: for which all such kind of Christians (as are thus guilty of this *Horrible Souls* sinking sin of *Pride*) are accountable.

And you that are *Parents* be *Examples* of *Humility* and *Christianity*, and bring up your *Children* in the *Nurture, Instruction and Admonition* of the *Lord*, Ephes. 6. 4. and not in *Pride* and *Vanity* in *Apparel*, nor in *Musick* and *Dancing* to expose them to *Lightness*, *Wantonness*, *Temptation* and *Ruine*, as too too many do; for which they are greatly chargeable with the sins of their *Children*, and have a heavy *Account* to give to the *Righteous God*, for being *accessary* to their *Ruine* and *Destruction*.

Oh *Inhabitants of London* and *England*, who are concerned in this *provoking sin of Pride, Excess, and Foolishness*, return to the *Light of Christ*, his *Grace* and *Truth* in you, and humble your selves under the mighty hand of God, and break off your *Sins* by true and *unfeigned Repentance*, that you may find *mercy* in *Christ Jesus*, and for his sake; That God in *Compassion* may turne away his *Wrath*, and avert his *Judgements* threatened and *impending* over these *Nations*.

From a real Friend to our Nation, and the Souls of all People.

G. W.

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